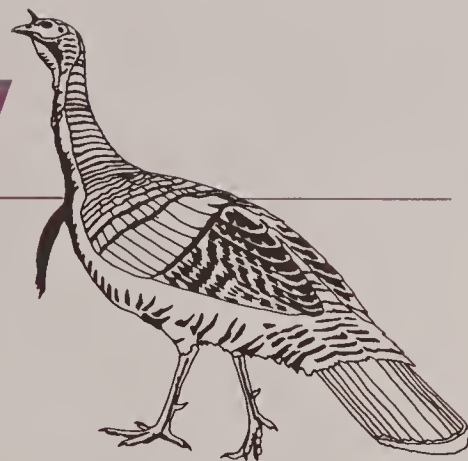


Spring Turkey



2004

Hunting Regulations
State of Montana

General Regulations

These regulations apply to all legally described spring male turkey hunting districts and areas.

Spring Season — April 10 - May 9, 2004

Licenses — The following licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices and most license providers throughout the state.

	Res.	Nonres.
Conservation License (required prerequisite*)	\$6.25	\$ 9.25
Spring Season Turkey License	\$5.00	\$115.00
Upland Game Bird License (required prerequisite for residents only)	\$6.00	\$110.00
Hunting Access Enhancement Fee	\$2.00	\$ 10.00

*The resident Sportsman's License, the nonresident Big Game Combination License, nonresident Elk Combination License or the nonresident Deer Combination License serve as the prerequisite license.

Montana residents 12-14 years of age, 62 years of age and older, or holders of a Disabled Resident Conservation License, need only the conservation license and a valid turkey license to hunt turkey. Persons under 12 years of age may not hunt turkey.

Hunter Education - All persons born after January 1, 1985, are required to provide proof of completion of a Montana hunter safety and education course or a hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license.

Limit - The total combined limit of the spring and fall seasons cannot exceed two turkeys per hunter. For example, if you kill two turkeys during the spring season, you may not hunt turkey during the fall season.

Turkey hunters have the following options to harvest a turkey during the spring season:

- harvest one male turkey in the general hunting area, or special permit area or administrative Region 7.
- harvest two male turkeys in administrative Region 7
- harvest one male turkey in the general hunting area or special permit area and one male turkey in administrative Region 7

Administrative Region 7 includes: Garfield, Rosebud, Treasure, Prairie, Custer, Powder River, Richland, Dawson, Wibaux, Fallon and Carter counties.

It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird:

- from any self propelled (that is, motorized) or drawn vehicle;
- on, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, or barrow pit right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel, MCA 61-1-202) in the state of Montana; or
- by the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight, spotlight or other artificial light, trap, snare, salt lick, or bait. (MCA 87-3-101) (Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain or food sources so as to constitute a lure or attraction. Nothing shall prohibit the taking of birds over standing crops or harvested cropland or grains scattered as a result of agricultural harvesting.)

Checking Stations - All hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

Evidence of Sex - No person shall transport within the state any turkey taken during the spring turkey gobbler season unless one leg and foot are left naturally attached for evidence of sex. The leg and foot shall remain attached at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the permanent residence of the possessor.

Recorded Animal or Bird Sounds - It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls, sounds or imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to assist in the hunting, taking, killing or capturing of any wildlife except predatory animals. (MCA 87-3-108).

Hunting Hours - One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Complete sunrise/sunset tables as adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission are available at all FWP offices and most license providers.

Private Land Access - Montana law requires hunters to have the permission of the landowner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not. It is recommended that hunters receive permission in writing.

Indian Reservations - Hunters hunting on Indian reservations should check Indian reservation regulations because season dates, shooting hours and bag limits may differ from state regulations.

Railroad Access - Railroad right-of-ways are private property and may not be hunted without permission.

Means of taking -

Wild turkey may be taken with:

- a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge; and/or
- a long, recurve or compound bow and arrow

The following methods or devices are prohibited in taking game birds and animals:

- The use of any chemical or explosive device attached to an arrow to aid in the taking of wildlife.
- A bow sight may be attached to any bow to aid in the taking of wildlife; however, bow sights, bows or arrows which use artificial light, luminous chemicals such as tritium, or electronics are prohibited.

State School Trust Lands Recreational Use License -

- The \$10 fee of the past has been replaced by a \$2 addition to the conservation license, which allows hunters, anglers and trappers access to all legally accessible state school trust lands. Trappers will still need to secure a "Special State Lands Recreational Use License" from DNRC at no additional charge.
- Other recreational activities such as hiking and bird watching still require the \$10 fee. These activities cannot, by Federal statute, be covered by the conservation license. Such a diversion could jeopardize \$12 million in federal funds Montana receives annually for fish and wildlife management.

Tagging - Immediately after harvesting the wild turkey, cut out the proper month and day from the license and affix the license to the turkey so it remains secure and visible at all times.

Wanton Waste - It is illegal to waste any part of any game animal, game bird, or game fish suitable for food. Following are turkey parts suitable for food: breasts, thighs and wings.

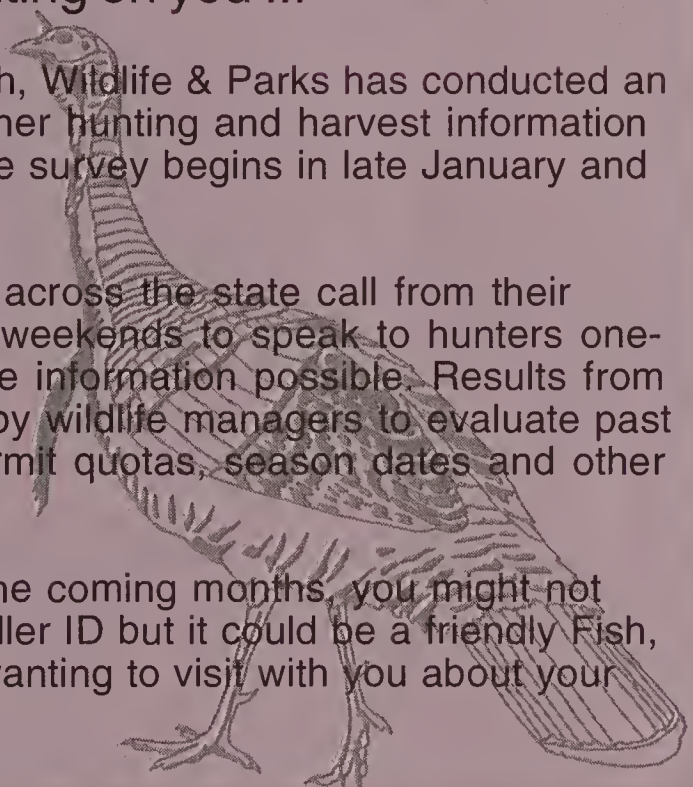
Annual Hunting & Harvest Survey

We're counting on you ...

For over 20 years, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has conducted an annual telephone survey to gather hunting and harvest information for Montana game species. The survey begins in late January and continues into March.

Telephone interviewers located across the state call from their homes midweek evenings and weekends to speak to hunters one-on-one to get the most accurate information possible. Results from the statewide survey are used by wildlife managers to evaluate past hunting seasons and to set permit quotas, season dates and other regulations for future years.

So, when your phone rings in the coming months, you might not recognize the name on your Caller ID but it could be a friendly Fish, Wildlife and Parks interviewer wanting to visit with you about your past season's hunting activity.





General Hunting Areas (includes Administrative Region 7)

The following counties are open to all hunters who hold a valid current year Spring Turkey License. Special permits are not required in these areas: Flathead Valley (see legal description). In addition, Hill, FWP Region 6 portion of Chouteau, Fergus, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.

Portion of Chouteau County open to hunting includes: that portion of FWP Region 6 in Chouteau County north of the Missouri and east of the Marias Rivers.

Flathead Valley

Turkey are found primarily on private land and access is limited and difficult.

General hunting area open to all hunters who hold a valid spring turkey license. All of Flathead County and that portion of Lake County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning on the shoreline of Flathead Lake at the junction of the Flathead County Line, then easterly along the county line to the Swan Divide, then southerly along said divide to USFS Trail 10 in Section 36, T26N, R18W, then southwesterly along said trail to USFS Road 9508 (Six Mile Road), then southerly along said road to Route 83, then southerly along said route to USFS Road 10229 (Porcupine Creek Road), then westerly and southerly along said road to the south boundary of T26N, the 6th Standard Parallel North, then west along said township line to the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary, then north and west along said boundary to the east shore of Flathead Lake, then north along the shore of said lake to the Flathead County line, the point of beginning.

Special Permit Application Process

Hunters must possess a special spring male turkey permit, in conjunction with their spring turkey license, to hunt in special permit hunting areas. Applicants may apply for a special spring male turkey permit in only one area of the state. The special spring male turkey permit allows the hunter to hunt in the described area during the time period specified on the permit. Permit quotas listed in these regulations are final for 2004.

Applications must be postmarked no later than March 15 of the current year, to be eligible for the drawing. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and will be required to purchase a valid spring turkey license before hunting.

Special Permit Hunting Areas

Sanders and Lincoln Counties:

A total of 290 special spring male turkey permits will be issued. Applicants must apply for only one of the following permit areas:

- Sanders County
 - 115 permits
- Lincoln County
 - 175 permits

Applicants must indicate either Sanders or Lincoln county area and submit in writing (or download an application from the FWP website) their name, address, ALS number, and a \$3 nonrefundable drawing fee to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Turkey Drawing, 490 North Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Sanders County:

A total of 115 special spring male turkey permits will be issued.

That portion of Sanders County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning where the Sanders-Mineral county line meets the Idaho border, then easterly along said line to Greenwood Hill, then northerly along the divide to Penrose Peak, Cherry Peak and Eddy Mountain, then northwesterly down the ridge to the Clark Fork River and mouth of Thompson River, then northeasterly up said river to the West Fork of the Thompson River, then up said fork to Four Lakes Creek, then westerly up said creek to the North Fork of Four Lakes Creek, then northwesterly up the North Fork to USFS Road 7671 and USFS Trail 437, then westerly up said trail to USFS Trail 450, then northerly on said trail to Mt. Headley, then northerly along the divide between Graves Creek and West Fork of Fishtrap Creek to the Vermilion River Divide, then northerly along the Vermilion-Thompson River Divide to the Sanders-Lincoln county line, then westerly along said line to the Idaho border, then south and southeasterly along said border to the Sanders-Mineral county line, the point of beginning.

Lincoln County:

A total of 175 special spring male turkey permits will be issued for Lincoln County in its entirety.

Mineral, Missoula (in portions of Missoula County a small area remains closed to turkey hunting due to recent transplants), Powell, Ravalli and portion of Granite Counties (see Granite County portion below):

A total of 265 special spring male turkey permits will be issued. Applicants may apply for only one of the following permit areas:

Mineral County

- 15 permits

Missoula County

- 30 permits
- 5 youth permits (12-14 years of age only)

Powell and portion of Granite Counties

- 5 permits

Ravalli County

- 150 permits
- 60 youth permits (12-14 years of age only)

Applicants must submit in writing (or download an application from the FWP website) their name, address, ALS number, indicate which county they are applying for, and include a \$3 nonrefundable drawing fee to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Turkey Drawing, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804.

Granite County Portion: Only that portion of Granite County north of the following described line shall be open to the hunting of turkeys during the spring gobbler season: Beginning at Cleveland Mountain and the head of Welcome Creek to Rock Creek, then north along Rock Creek to its junction with Brewster Creek, then easterly along said creek to Sliderock Mountain and the head of Eightmile Creek, then easterly along said creek to its junction with the 500 KV Bonneville Power Line, then southeast along said power line to the Granite-Powell County line.

Toole and Pondera Counties: CLOSED

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Administrative Region 3 and Park County:

A total of 44 special spring male turkey permits will be issued. Applicants may apply for only one of the following permit areas:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Administrative Region 3

Administrative Region 3 includes: Beaverhead, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Broadwater, Madison, and Gallatin counties. Permits are not valid on Canyon Ferry Special Management Area.

- 20 permits
- 2 youth permits (12-14 years of age only)

Park County

- 20 permits
- 2 youth permits (12-14 years of age only)

Applicants must indicate either FWP Administrative Region 3 or Park County and submit in writing (or download an application from the FWP website) their name, address, ALS number, and \$3 nonrefundable drawing fee to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Turkey Drawing, 1400 South 19th, Bozeman, MT 59718.

Defensive Turkey Hunting Tactics

A safe turkey hunter, like a safe driver, is defensive minded. Below are some tips you should consider.

- Select the largest stump, blow-down, tree-trunk, or rock to place your back against when calling; a hunter is more likely to spot another hunter moving to the front or side than from behind.
- Eliminate the colors white, red, black and blue from your hunting outfit; this includes handkerchiefs, socks, underwear, etc.
- Select your calling spot in open timber rather than thick brush; eliminating movement is a key to success, not concealment.
- In areas of high hunter concentrations, wear blaze orange when walking to and from your vehicle; this is also a good idea when carrying a bird out of the woods.
- Be discreet when imitating the sound of a gobbling turkey.
- When songbirds, crows or your turkey shuts up--look out; there's a good chance another hunter is moving in on your bird.
- Never move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence; remain still, cough or holler.

These regulations and final quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the commission in Section 87-1-301, MCA and are valid March 1, 2004 through February 28, 2005. These regulations were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on February 12, 2004. M. Jeff Hagener, Director.

ZONE 1

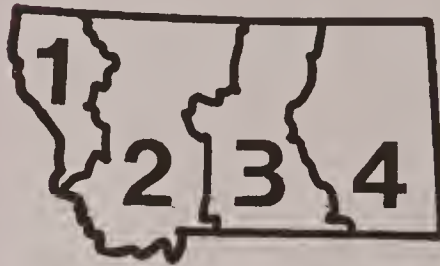
	April		May	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:14	7:06	6:20	8:47
2	6:12	7:07	6:18	8:48
3	6:10	7:09	6:17	8:50
4	7:08	8:10	6:15	8:51
5	7:06	8:11	6:14	8:52
6	7:05	8:13	6:12	8:54
7	7:03	8:14	6:11	8:55
8	7:01	8:16	6:10	8:56
9	6:59	8:17	6:08	8:57
10	6:57	8:18	6:07	8:59
11	6:55	8:20	6:06	9:00
12	6:53	8:21	6:04	9:01
13	6:51	8:22	6:03	9:02
14	6:49	8:24	6:02	9:04
15	6:48	8:25	6:00	9:05
16	6:46	8:26	5:59	9:06
17	6:44	8:28	5:58	9:07
18	6:42	8:29	5:57	9:09
19	6:40	8:31	5:56	9:10
20	6:38	8:32	5:55	9:11
21	6:37	8:33	5:54	9:12
22	6:35	8:35	5:53	9:13
23	6:33	8:36	5:52	9:14
24	6:32	8:37	5:51	9:15
25	6:30	8:39	5:50	9:16
26	6:28	8:40	5:49	9:17
27	6:26	8:42	5:49	9:18
28	6:25	8:43	5:48	9:19
29	6:23	8:44	5:47	9:20
30	6:22	8:46	5:46	9:21
31			5:46	9:22

ZONE 3

	April		May	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	5:56	6:48	6:01	8:29
2	5:54	6:49	6:00	8:30
3	5:52	6:51	5:58	8:32
4	6:50	7:52	5:57	8:33
5	6:48	7:53	5:55	8:34
6	6:46	7:55	5:54	8:36
7	6:44	7:56	5:52	8:37
8	6:42	7:58	5:51	8:38
9	6:40	7:59	5:49	8:40
10	6:38	8:00	5:48	8:41
11	6:36	8:02	5:47	8:42
12	6:35	8:03	5:45	8:44
13	6:33	8:04	5:44	8:45
14	6:31	8:06	5:43	8:46
15	6:29	8:07	5:42	8:47
16	6:27	8:09	5:40	8:49
17	6:25	8:10	5:39	8:50
18	6:23	8:11	5:38	8:51
19	6:22	8:13	5:37	8:52
20	6:20	8:14	5:36	8:53
21	6:18	8:15	5:35	8:54
22	6:16	8:17	5:34	8:56
23	6:15	8:18	5:33	8:57
24	6:13	8:20	5:32	8:58
25	6:11	8:21	5:31	8:59
26	6:09	8:22	5:30	9:00
27	6:08	8:24	5:30	9:01
28	6:06	8:25	5:29	9:02
29	6:04	8:26	5:28	9:03
30	6:03	8:28	5:27	9:04
31			5:27	9:05

Sunrise-Sunset Tables For Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission for hunting in Montana. **(Do not utilize from other sources).**



ZONE 1

INCLUDES: Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders Counties

ZONE 2

INCLUDES: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Choteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

ZONE 3

INCLUDES: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties

ZONE 4

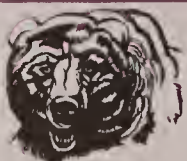
INCLUDES: Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley and Wibaux Counties

ZONE 2

	April		May	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:07	6:58	6:13	8:38
2	6:05	6:59	6:11	8:40
3	6:03	7:01	6:10	8:41
4	7:01	8:02	6:08	8:42
5	6:59	8:03	6:07	8:44
6	6:57	8:05	6:05	8:45
7	6:55	8:06	6:04	8:46
8	6:53	8:07	6:03	8:47
9	6:51	8:09	6:01	8:49
10	6:49	8:10	6:00	8:50
11	6:48	8:11	5:58	8:51
12	6:46	8:13	5:57	8:52
13	6:44	8:14	5:56	8:54
14	6:42	8:15	5:55	8:55
15	6:40	8:17	5:54	8:56
16	6:38	8:18	5:52	8:57
17	6:36	8:19	5:51	8:59
18	6:35	8:21	5:50	9:00
19	6:33	8:22	5:49	9:01
20	6:31	8:24	5:48	9:02
21	6:29	8:25	5:47	9:03
22	6:28	8:26	5:46	9:04
23	6:26	8:28	5:45	9:05
24	6:24	8:29	5:44	9:06
25	6:23	8:30	5:43	9:07
26	6:21	8:32	5:43	9:09
27	6:19	8:33	5:42	9:10
28	6:18	8:34	5:41	9:11
29	6:16	8:36	5:40	9:11
30	6:14	8:37	5:40	9:12
31			5:39	9:13

ZONE 4

	April		May	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	5:42	6:33	5:49	8:13
2	5:40	6:34	5:47	8:14
3	5:38	6:36	5:46	8:16
4	6:36	7:37	5:44	8:17
5	6:34	7:38	5:43	8:18
6	6:32	7:40	5:41	8:20
7	6:31	7:41	5:40	8:21
8	6:29	7:42	5:38	8:22
9	6:27	7:44	5:37	8:23
10	6:25	7:45	5:36	8:25
11	6:23	7:46	5:34	8:26
12	6:21	7:48	5:33	8:27
13	6:19	7:49	5:32	8:28
14	6:17	7:50	5:31	8:30
15	6:16	7:52	5:29	8:31
16	6:14	7:53	5:28	8:32
17	6:12	7:54	5:27	8:33
18	6:10	7:56	5:26	8:34
19	6:08	7:57	5:25	8:36
20	6:07	7:58	5:24	8:37
21	6:05	8:00	5:23	8:38
22	6:03	8:01	5:22	8:39
23	6:02	8:02	5:21	8:40
24	6:00	8:04	5:20	8:41
25	5:58	8:05	5:19	8:42
26	5:57	8:06	5:18	8:43
27	5:55	8:08	5:18	8:44
28	5:53	8:09	5:17	8:45
29	5:52	8:10	5:16	8:46
30	5:50	8:12	5:15	8:47
31			5:15	8:48



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

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